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Agenda item 73

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mehmet **Samsar** (Turkey)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly decision 56/415 of 29 November 2001.

2. At its 19th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2002, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 27 September 2002, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57, 58 and 60 to 73, which was held at the 2nd to 10th meetings, from 30 September to 4 October and on 7, 9 and 10 October (see A/C.1/57/PV.2-10). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 11th to 16th meetings, from 14 to 18 October (see A/C.1/57/PV.11-16). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 17th to 23rd meetings, from 21 to 23 and on 25, 28 and 29 October (see A/C.1/57/PV.17-23).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a letter dated 14 June 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/57/88-S/2002/672).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.4 and Rev.1

5. At the 12th meeting, on 15 October, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Australia, Mexico and New Zealand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty" (A/C.1/57/L.4).

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6. At its 13th meeting, on 16 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/57/L.4/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.4 and Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Monaco, Nauru, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela. Subsequently, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, Cyprus, Finland, Honduras, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Senegal, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution. In the revised draft resolution, the first preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "*Reiterating* that the cessation of nuclear test explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure",

was replaced by:

> "*Reiterating* that the cessation of nuclear test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure".

7. At its 17th meeting, on 21 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/57/L.4/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 125 to 1, with 4 abstentions (see para. 8). The voting was as follows:[1]

In favour:

> Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United

[1] The representatives of Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Eritrea, Georgia, Guyana, Honduras, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands and Yemen subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Colombia, India, Mauritius, Syrian Arab Republic.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

The General Assembly,

Reiterating that the cessation of nuclear-weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions constitutes an effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measure,

Recalling that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, adopted by its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996, was opened for signature on 24 September 1996,

Stressing that a universal and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty constitutes a fundamental instrument in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation,

Encouraged by the signing of the Treaty by one hundred and sixty-six States, including forty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, and welcoming the ratification of ninety-six States, including thirty-one of the forty-four needed for its entry into force, among which there are three nuclear-weapon States,

Recalling its resolution 55/41 of 20 November 2000,

Welcoming the Final Declaration of the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, held in New York from 11 to 13 November 2001,[2]

1. *Stresses* the importance and urgency of signature and ratification, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the earliest entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty;

2. *Welcomes* the contributions by the States signatories to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, in particular to its efforts to ensure that the Treaty's verification regime will be capable of meeting the verification requirements of the Treaty upon its entry into force, in accordance with article IV of the Treaty;

[2] CTBT — ART.XIV/2001/6, annex.

3. *Urges* States to maintain their moratoria on nuclear-weapons test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, pending the entry into force of the Treaty;

4. *Urges* all States that have not yet signed the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible and to refrain from acts that would defeat its object and purpose in the meanwhile;

5. *Urges* all States that have signed but not yet ratified the Treaty, in particular those whose ratification is needed for its entry into force, to accelerate their ratification processes with a view to their earliest successful conclusion;

6. *Urges* all States to remain seized of the issue at the highest political level;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".